

conduct of Alexander M'Gee, a petition from Joseph Renshaw of Baltimore county, and a petition from the freeholders and associators of Sassafra's neck, Cecil county, were severally read and ordered to lie on the table.

The convention taking into consideration the resolutions of Saturday last on the charge against Samuel Purviance, jun., of Baltimore town,

*Resolved*, That Samuel Purviance, jun., be called before this convention, and be informed by Mr. President of the resolutions had on Saturday last on the articles of charge against him, and further, that this convention highly disapprove and condemn his conduct in usurping the power to direct the operations of the military force of this province, and in using his character of chairman, and engaging the countenance and promising the protection and indemnity of the committee, without the orders of the committee, assembled as such. That it appears to this convention, that the said Samuel Purviance in his usurpation of the power to direct the military force of this province, was considerably influenced by a person not residing in this province, nor having any interest or property therein, and that it would be of the most dangerous tendency to the peace of this province, and to the safety and security of the good people thereof, to suffer any person or persons, other than those entrusted with the proper authority by this province, and more especially such as do not reside nor have any interest therein, to interfere in the direction of the internal affairs, civil or military, of the said province. That this convention hath no intention or desire to prevent any person from freely examining into the conduct of the convention, or any other public body within this province, or into the conduct of any individuals thereof, or to exercise his judgment, or to communicate his sentiments as to the abilities or fitness of any man to fill the office to which he is appointed. That it is necessary for the purpose of filling the places of highest trust with the best and most approved characters in the community, and for the preservation of public liberty, that there should be such free investigations. But that it is equally necessary for maintaining order, that the public bodies should not be wantonly and licentiously traduced by misrepresentations of them and their conduct, to those especially who stand high in the present system of authority or command in America. That if the representations of the said Samuel Purviance concerning the convention and council of safety to the president of the congress and general Lee were true, such representations could not be serviceable to the public, because neither the president of the congress nor general Lee could